

Editorial

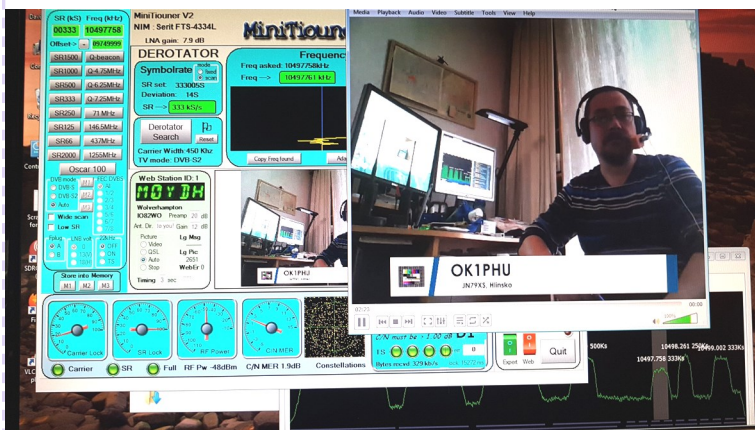
The front page really says it all—so I shall leave it at that. This Newsletter mostly contains bits and pieces of what's going on, extracted from e-mails and our groups.io Reflector. Our radios and the Internet have certainly shown their usefulness.

MIV

~+

QO-100 Geo-stationary satellite—Active since February 2019.

Notes from David M0YDH (sent 17 May):



It's my first day receiving DATV from QO-100. I have a 1.1m dish and a modified quad LNB fed with a 25MHz reference signal. I've been listening on my RSP1A radio to the narrow band. I can't get SDR Console to display 10.489GHz on the top left. It's set for 99.9 GHz and shows the correct frequency when entered manually. Down conversion and beacon lock are in place.

Here's a picture of Minitioune in action. M0DTS's click and Tune utility is in view (lower window) and I was sending video to VLC Player. It was a lot of fun! I received 12 stations this afternoon. I must assemble the patch antenna next. 73 David M0YDH.

Response from Paul M0PNN: (sent 17 May) David... Looking good . Going to use a 20 element Yagi for signal up and 12 watts driven from IC 9700 on 23cm fed with 10 metres of RG58 to drop signal to upconverter.

Going to put the lot in a box just above Yagi. Up-converter and amp should be here this week. Not going to rush it. The new version of Minitioune crashes quite frequently here. Club Net on QO-100 ! Meanwhile, Dave G8VZT has received excellent pictures from UO-100 and is also planning NB activity..

Dave GOCER
Successfully had this
contribution accepted
by the Shropshire
Star and the RSGB
website for Publica-
tion.
(Publ. May 18th)

Amateur radio enthusiasts take to the airwaves to offer support

Amateur radio enthusiasts itching to get their club active again have launched a series of virtual talks.

Meetings of Telford and District Amateur Radio Society have been suspended because of the lockdown, but members have been having radio chats, known as nets, up to three times weekly.

These enable members living across Shropshire and over the Welsh border to have a chat and check up on each other.

And it has taken on board the Radio Society of Great Britain's "Get On The Air To Care" campaign to promote wellbeing and help ease the effects of social isolation among the 75,000 UK radio amateurs.

It has been organising a Wednesday evening get-together to hear about the national society's new Beyond Exams scheme framework.

Beyond Exams is a group of resources to encourage participation and highlight the diversity of amateur radio, including awards and schemes to help enthusiasts and clubs get the most from the hobby.

Talks

Fourteen members logged in to hear the first in what is planned to be a series of talks.

It was given by Chris Colclough, RSGB Beyond Exams coordinator, speaking from his home in Leicester.

Dave Harris of the Telford society said the video meeting had many benefits. He added: "Some members live in the more rural districts and radio contact or virtual club meetings are now their means of support and mental wellbeing – this video meeting is certainly a welcome way of members being able to spot potential problems."

"The hour and a half meeting started a new era of virtual meetings for Telford's radio society in its 51st year.

"Anyone interested in amateur radio can check the society's website on www.tdars.org.uk."

Telford and District Amateur Radio Society's weekly Wednesday meetings in Little Wenlock are currently suspended.

**TELFORD & DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY : 2019-20**

CHAIRMAN: Simon Bird G0UFE (telfordslivewire@hotmail.co.uk Tel: 01952 401018)

VICE-CHAIRMAN: Martyn Vincent G3UKV (ukv@ukv.me.uk Tel:01952 255416)

SECRETARY: John Humphreys M0JZH (m0jzh@yahoo.co.uk Tel:07824 737716)

TREASURER: Paul Athersmith M0PLA (paul.athersmith@gmail.com Tel:07966 969230)

CURATOR : Don Nicholls M0TBQ (donsnicholls@outlook.com Tel: 01952 411680)

TRAINING and 'Beyond Exams': Graham Cowan G7LMF (training@tdars.org.uk)

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Martyn Vincent G3UKV (01952 255416 or 07421 001166)

PUBLICITY/WEBMASTER : Dave GOCER (davekh@gmail.com)

Committee: Brian G6UDX; Graham G7LMF; Ian M0IRP; Village Hall Committee Liaison officer Martin 2E0TRO.

An 'L' dipole for 20 metres by Simon G0UFE

A while back John, JZH, sent me a link to a YouTube video showing the making and installation of a very simple dipole for 20 metres. Because the radiating element was vertical and the ground element horizontal it is an ideal antenna for those with small gardens and cost very little to make.

It comprises of 2 lengths of cable 5.1 metres long, 3 connectors in one block, a length of 50 ohm coax and a pole, non-metallic.

The vertical cable is taped/secured to the mast and the bottom end into the first connector and the horizontal cable is connected into the third connector. The horizontal cable should be off the ground at a height of about 400mm and kept straight, I kept mine straight with an elastic bungee. (see photo).

Tuning is easy; just trim a little off each end and check with an antenna analyser/VSWR meter. I got mine down to 1.08 : 1 with a return loss of about 28db.

My pole was a 10 metre fibreglass telescopic mast and I had quite a lot of fun using it one sunny afternoon, working as far as the Ukraine with my Icom IC 7000 and 50 watts output from my back garden. Operating was stopped by the exYL because she wanted to put up the rotating washing line.



73 Simon G0UFE

#####

[Editor: I've taken the liberty of copying/pasting this email sent to one or two other TDARS members and myself from Richard G0VXG. Looks like Richard's latest project to produce UHF Handhelds with display, helican antenna etc]

“ Hi

The electronics just fits into a 100 x 25 x 60mm box, a few things need tidying up...The volume is good even though the speakers are only 20x10mm, but a little toppy.

Just started some distance tests, so far so good. “ (sent 13th May)



Anyday/Anytime: GB3TF FM Voice/Digital (Fusion) Repeater: Output 433.200 MHz

There are currently 47 members of this useful group. Most TDARS members belong.

~+~+~+~+~+~+~+~+~+~+~+~+~+

Barstow— First touch of Route 66

TDARS Trophies 2019-2020

Following the postponement of the 2020/21 AGM at the end of March, the Committee have agreed to publish the results of the awarded TDARS Trophies, as follows:-

Syd Poole Trophy (operating 'on air' in the spirit of AR) Paul M0PNN

Main Construction Competition Paul M0PNN

Main Construction Competition (Beginners) David M7VXR

'Under a Fiver' Construction Competition Paul M0PNN

Direction Finding (DF Fox Hunt) Graham G7LMF

(1st. In 3 DF sessions last summer!)

Jack Hassall Trophy (service to TDARS over past year) - To be decided by vote of members present at a future meeting at LWVH (whenever that is . . .)



The Jack Hassall Trophy

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL RECIPIENTS.

+~+~+~+~+~+~+~+~+~+~+~+~+~+~+~+~+



Wednesday
13th May 2020

Most of the participants at the first ever on-line TDARS Club Meeting :

To be a regular
Wednesday
evening event
from 19:45 hrs.

Including: G7LMF, 2E0SBM(RR13), M7JBT, G1VDP (presenter), Chris Francis M7., G0CER, G6FHM, G8AQA, M0HMO, M0TBQ, M0JZH, 2E0TRO, G0UFE, M0TAV (RR 5), M7KBO.
Not showing: M6JAX (camera off), G3UKV (taking photo), 2E0DTB (left early) = 18 total.

[illegible]

A few more links provided by Peter G4URT of Wem..... (Sent 9th April)

MMMonVHF. <https://www.mmmonvhf.de/>

An excellent site that has far too many parts to explain here, but a good overall site. The front page will give a forecast of conditions for SpE, tropo, MS, EME.

DxMaps <https://www.dxmaps.com/spots/mapg.php?Lan=E&Frec=50&ML=M&HF=N>

This is the link to the European 2m map site. Again, very comprehensive and needs a little time to fully explore but you can specify for example European 2m activity and it will show SpE, Tropo , MS contacts on a real-time basis from spot-
ters.

Hepburn Propagation http://www.dxinfocentre.com/tropo_eur.html

This is a tropo forecasting tool. It has just been reported that the 70cms tropo record has been broken in a transatlantic contact from Cape Verdi across to the Caribbean. Hepburn showed a massive tropo opening at the time along this sea path. (See also G8AQA's alternative on page 3— Ed)

ON4KST chat room. <http://www.on4kst.com/chat/start.php>

Not so much a website, but an online forum with people spotting DX. Very useful to see what is going on and making skeds. (requires initial registration—Ed)

Beyond Exams – building experience by Graham G7LMF

On Wednesday 13th May 2020, TDARS tried something a little bit different when we held our first on-line club meeting.

The meeting, attended by 14 club members, started with a talk by Chris Colclough G1VDP of the RSGB to introduce the RSGB Beyond Exams (BE) Scheme followed by a Q&A session and a few members even stopped around at the end to have a chat.

Whether you are new to amateur radio, want to try a different aspect of the hobby or find a new challenge, the RSGB's Beyond Exams Scheme can help.

TDARS has just signed up to the RSGB Beyond Exams (BE) Club Scheme as an Accredited Club because we are committed to running varied and creative activities throughout the year to help give our members a wide range of experiences of the hobby.

Beyond Exams is the RSGB suite of initiatives designed to help individuals and clubs get the most from the hobby and to have fun.

One initiative is club based – delivered through accredited clubs such as TDARS. The other is for individuals to work on independently (or collaboratively with friends within the hobby).

The Club Scheme provides a framework to allow club members to explore the hobby in a fun and sociable way. The scheme consists of 23 activities, based around five themes. As you go through the scheme and complete activities successfully, you will receive certificates to reward your progress.

The 23 activities in the Club Scheme are grouped into five themes. You can try them in any order you like:

- Having a go
- Getting involved
- Taking part
- Making
- Promoting amateur radio

The Individual Scheme is all about personal development and building skills on your own. The scheme consists of 150 activities ranging from simple to advanced, based around nine themes. You will receive virtual rewards as you complete activities and gain experience.

So, how will you be rewarded for your achievements?

As you go through either scheme and complete activities successfully you fill in a spreadsheet (downloadable from [groups.io/TDARS/files/Beyond Exams Scheme](https://groups.io/TDARS/files/Beyond%20Exams%20Scheme)) to record your progress then as you reach each milestone you send it to me and, once verified, you will receive certificates to reward your progress.

Anyone can take part in the schemes as they are designed to:

- Help newcomers explore amateur radio
 - Provide a framework for getting back into the hobby if you have been away from it for a few years. It will help you to discover what has changed and what is new
- Give established amateur radio operators ideas for new challenges

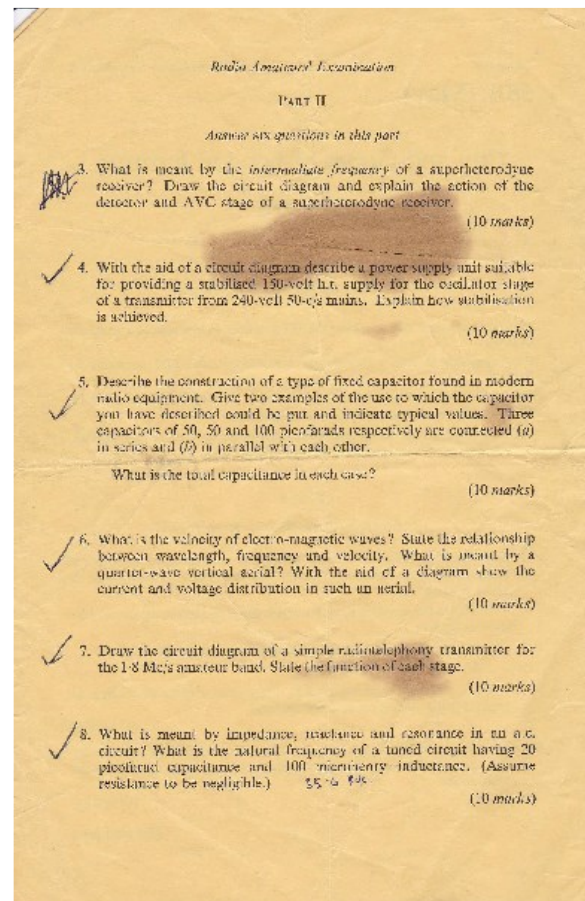
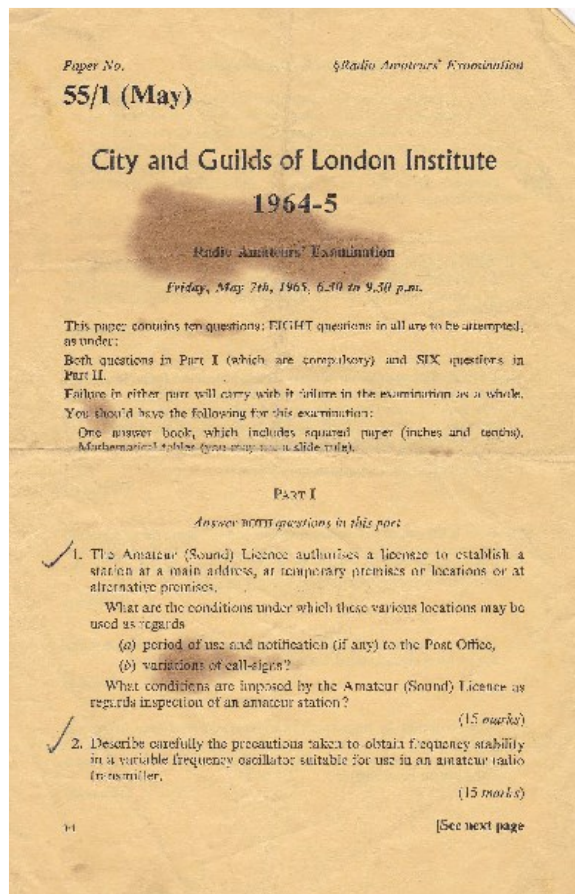
If you want to learn more about either scheme then please talk to Graham, G7LMF or email him on training@tdars.org.uk.

See also:

<https://rsgb.org/main/beyond-exams-building-experience/club-scheme/>

<https://rsgb.org/main/beyond-exams-building-experience/rsgb-individual-scheme/>





Final Page :
Came across my old City & Guilds Radio Amateurs' Exam from May 1965, lasting 3 hours.

In those days, you were allowed to take the exam paper home with you—as above and opposite.

You can see which questions I chose from the two sections, and even my doodles on the last page !

Not sure what the blotches are . .

Why not zoom in and see if you can answer the questions today.

P.S. I did pass—first go.
73 Martyn G3UKV

